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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A REPORT BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY PREPARED IN COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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Supervisor, Economic Analysis and Reports

August 85-8

SUMMARY: Total unemployment in New Hampshire decreased by 9,550 from mid-July to mid-August. The latest total of 18,550 unemployed represents 3.4 percent of the civilian labor force of 550,580. In July the rate was 5.1 percent and a year ago it was 3.7 percent. Nationally the rates were 6.9 percent in August, 7.4 percent in July and 7.3 percent a year ago. The significantly reduced state unemployment rate is in part the result of factory workers having returned to work after the annual July vacation plant shutdowns. Also, there were fewer unemployed new entrants and reentrants entering the labor force in August. Construction activities in August continued at a brisk pace as many workers were hired to stay abreast of the demand for new buildings, housing, and heavy construction projects. The services and trade divisions added on 4,650 workers as tourism reached its peak levels throughout the state. Some job openings involved replacement for students and teachers employed in trade and services who dropped out of the labor force in order to return to school. Manufacturing increased by 1,850 workers in August. All labor market areas reported unemployment decreases led by the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA with 3,010 fewer unemployed. The Manchester area recorded 1,430 fewer unemployed, while in the Laconia area there were 1,130 less unemployed. Unemployment rates ranged from a low of 2.3 percent in the Claremont area to a high of 5.4 percent in the Salem area (N.H. portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill Massachusetts PMSA).

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 6,450 from July as manufacturing is up by 1,850 and nonmanufacturing by 4,600. Within the nonmanufacturing division, construction is up 1,550, trade 1,500, and services 1,600. Compared to the year ago level, nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 30,650 workers as manufacturing decreased 4,600 while nonmanufacturing increased 35,250. The largest gain occurred in trade which is up 15,350 over last year. The largest drop in jobs occurred in electrical products which is down 2,600 from last year. Leather and leather products is down 1,050 from a year ago.

Manchester Economic Conditions: Total unemployment decreased by 1,430 as the unemployment rate dropped from 4.2 to 2.6 percent. A year ago the rate was 2.9 percent. Nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 1,300 workers from July, and is up 2,800 from the year ago level. While the manufacturing division decreased by 100 over the year, the nonmanufacturing sector increased by 2,900. Construction is up 700 and services 1,100 over last year's level.

Nashua Economic Conditions: Total unemployment decreased by 960 from July as the jobless count went from 4,290 to 3,330. The unemployment rate dropped from 4.4 percent in July to 3.5 percent in August. A year ago the rate was 2.7 percent. Nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 300 from July and is up by 2,750 from a year ago. Over the year manufacturing has decreased by 850 workers while nonmanufacturing has increased by 3,600. Construction is up 600, services 950, and trade by 1,450 over the year ago level.

New Hampshire Labor Force, Total Employment and Unemployment and Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment as of the Middle of the Month

Industry	State					Manchester MSA					Nashua PMSA				
	Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous	
	August 1985	July 1985	August 1984	Month	Year	August 1985	July 1985	August 1984	Month	Year	August 1985	July 1985	August 1984	Month	Year
1. Civilian labor force*	550,580	551,860	532,070	-1,280	18,510	83,180	88,090	86,990	90	1,190	96,380	96,480	94,400	-100	1,980
2. Unemployment	18,550	28,100	19,650	-9,550	-1,100	2,280	3,710	2,490	-1,430	-210	3,330	4,290	2,510	-960	820
Percent of labor force	3.4	5.1	3.7	xxx	xxx	2.6	4.2	2.9	xxx	xxx	3.5	4.4	2.7	xxx	xxx
3. Employment total	531,730	523,710	512,420	8,020	19,310	85,900	84,380	84,500	1,520	1,400	93,050	92,190	91,890	860	1,160
4. Persons involved in labor disputes	300	50	0	250	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonagri. wage & salary**	488,950	482,500	458,300	6,450	30,650	79,400	78,100	76,600	1,300	2,800	83,650	83,350	80,900	300	2,750
Manufacturing	120,600	118,750	125,200	1,850	-4,600	15,850	15,250	15,950	600	-100	36,800	36,650	37,650	150	-850
Durable goods	82,150	81,400	84,600	750	-2,450	9,250	8,850	9,250	400	0	31,350	31,300	31,400	50	-50
Lumber & wood prods.	5,500	5,300	5,400	200	100										
Furniture & fixtures	1,300	1,100	1,350	200	-50										
Stone & clay prods.	2,900	2,900	3,000	0	-100										
Primary metal prods.	4,550	4,600	4,600	-50	-50										
Fabricated metal prods.	6,600	6,800	7,050	-200	-450										
Machinery (exc. elec.)	25,050*	24,950*	24,450	100	600	Machinery And Electrical Products Combined									
Electrical prods.	25,550	25,300	28,150	250	-2,600	5,650	5,350	5,750	300	-100	24,400	24,200	24,300	200	100
Miscellaneous prods.	2,250	2,150	2,200	100	50										
Other durables	8,450	8,300	8,400	150	50	3,600	3,500	3,500	100	100	6,950	7,100	7,100	-150	-150
Nondurable goods	38,450	37,350	40,600	1,100	-2,150	6,600	6,400	6,700	200	-100	5,450	5,350	6,250	100	-800
Food & kindred prods.	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0										
Textile mill prods.	3,750	3,500	4,200	250	-450										
Apparel	2,450	2,300	2,650	150	-200	2,000	1,800	1,900	200	100					
Paper & allied prods.	5,400	5,450	5,600	-50	-200										
Print., pub. & allied	6,750	6,850	7,150	-100	-400										
Leather & lea. prods.	6,450	5,950	7,500	500	-1,050										
Other nondurables	10,650	10,300	10,500	350	150	4,600	4,600	4,800	0	-200					
Nonmanufacturing	368,350	363,750	333,100	4,600	35,250	63,550	62,850	60,650	700	2,900	46,850	46,700	43,250	150	3,600
Construction (inc. min.)	36,300	34,750	26,950	1,550	9,350	5,050	4,900	4,350	150	700	4,300	4,200	3,700	100	600
Trans., comm. & util.	15,300	15,200	14,700	100	600	4,800	4,750	4,700	50	100	2,200	2,200	2,050	0	150
Trade	125,700	124,200	110,350	1,500	15,350	20,450	20,350	20,200	100	250	17,600	17,500	16,150	100	1,450
Fin., ins. & real estate	26,350	26,200	24,100	150	2,250	6,950	6,900	6,600	50	350	2,800	2,850	2,650	-50	150
Service industry & other	104,750	103,150	98,550	1,600	6,200	19,000	18,650	17,900	350	1,100	15,000	15,000	14,050	0	950
Government	59,950	60,250	58,450	-300	1,500	7,300	7,300	6,900	0	400	4,950	4,950	4,650	0	300
Federal	12,250	12,300	11,900	-50	350	2,250	2,250	2,200	0	50	700	700	700	0	0
State	16,450	16,550	15,450	-100	1,000	850	850	800	0	50	200	200	200	0	0
Local	31,250	31,400	31,100	-150	150	4,200	4,200	3,900	0	300	4,050	4,050	3,750	0	300

* By place of residence
** By place of establishment
Benchmark March 1984

Labor Disputes: *Machinery-300 August
50 July

Total Unemployment and Labor Force by Area and County

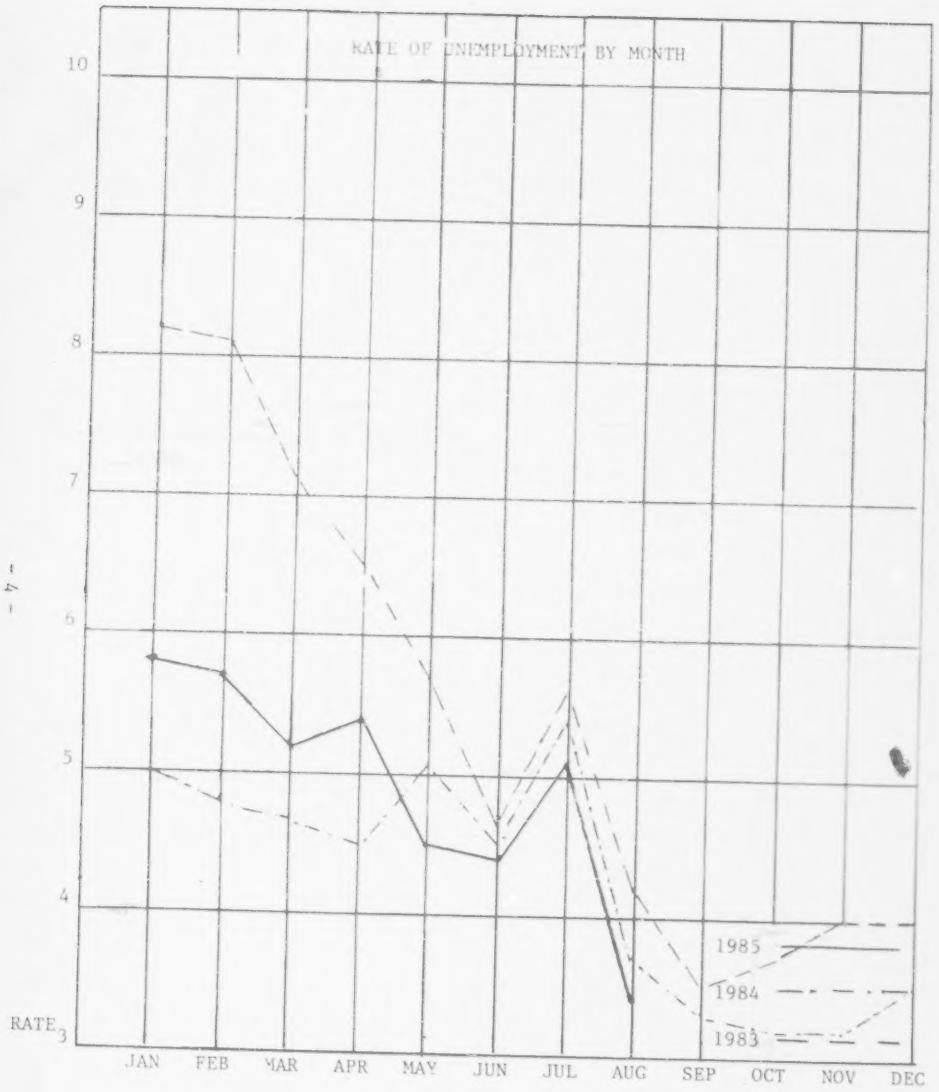
Area	Unemployment* August 1985 Number	Rate	July 1985 Number	Rate	August 1984 Number	Rate	Numerical Change From Previous Month	Year	Civilian Labor Force August 1985	July 1985	August 1984	Numerical Change From Previous Month	Year
United States**	8,051	6.9	8,682	7.4	8,382	7.3	-631	-331	116,679	117,536	115,076	-857	1,603
New Hampshire	18,550	3.4	28,100	5.1	19,650	3.7	-9,550	-1,100	550,580	551,860	532,070	-1,280	18,510
Area													
Berlin LMA	820	3.9	1,010	4.8	800	4.0	-190	20	21,110	20,850	20,070	260	1,040
Claremont LMA	910	2.3	1,240	3.2	860	2.3	-330	50	39,370	38,340	36,600	1,030	2,770
Concord LMA	1,150	2.5	1,660	3.7	1,170	2.7	-510	-20	46,060	45,380	43,660	680	2,400
Keene LMA	1,160	3.0	1,800	4.6	970	2.6	-640	190	39,140	39,310	37,290	-170	1,850
Laconia LMA	1,250	2.5	2,380	4.7	1,230	2.6	-1,130	20	49,780	50,210	47,940	-430	1,840
Littleton LMA	440	2.7	1,120	6.9	410	2.7	-680	30	16,010	16,130	15,140	-120	870
Manchester MSA	2,280	2.6	3,710	4.2	2,490	2.9	-1,430	-210	88,180	88,090	86,990	90	1,190
Nashua PMSA	3,330	3.5	4,290	4.4	2,510	2.7	-960	820	96,380	96,480	94,400	-100	1,980
N.H. Portion of Lawrence Haverhill MA. PMSA ***	2,620	5.4	3,100	6.5	3,200	6.9	-480	-880	48,120	47,470	46,430	650	1,690
Portsmouth - Dover - Rochester N.H. - ME.	3,820	3.4	6,830	6.0	5,480	5.1	-3,010	-1,660	110,760	114,180	108,150	-3,420	2,610
Unattached Estimating Area ****	760	5.0	1,060	6.9	870	6.0	-300	-110	15,300	15,440	14,410	-140	890
Town of Pelham (Part of Lowell MA - NH PMSA)	270	5.2	310	5.9	110	2.3	-40	160	5,170	5,230	4,720	-60	450
County													
Belknap	640	2.5	1,550	6.0	620	2.6	-910	20	25,240	25,780	24,280	-540	960
Carroll	410	2.7	560	3.8	390	2.7	-150	20	15,000	14,900	14,320	100	680
Cheshire	1,080	3.1	1,690	4.8	910	2.7	-610	170	35,090	35,280	33,440	-190	1,650
Coos	810	4.3	1,010	5.5	740	4.2	-200	70	18,690	18,440	17,710	250	980
Grafton	870	2.3	1,610	4.3	870	2.5	-740	0	37,590	37,230	35,510	360	2,080
Hillsborough	5,800	3.2	8,250	4.5	5,010	2.8	-2,450	790	182,680	182,830	178,570	-150	4,110
Merrimack	1,390	2.4	1,910	3.4	1,380	2.5	-520	10	57,410	56,590	54,760	820	2,650
Rockingham	4,740	4.3	6,520	5.9	6,640	6.2	-1,780	-1,900	109,560	109,960	107,040	-400	2,520
Strafford	2,290	4.7	4,180	8.2	2,590	5.4	-1,890	-300	49,020	50,950	47,560	-1,930	1,460
Sullivan	520	2.6	820	4.1	500	2.6	-300	20	20,300	19,900	18,880	400	1,420

* Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "43 Step Method" Handbook adjusted to the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates.

** In thousands, not seasonally adjusted.

*** New Hampshire portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and twelve small towns.

**** Includes twenty towns previously in either Dover, Portsmouth, Manchester or Nashua LMAS.



AREA DEFINITIONS

Manchester MSA — includes the city of Manchester and towns of Allenstown, Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Goffstown, Hooksett.

Nashua PMSA — is located in the southern section of Hillsborough County and includes the City of Nashua and the towns of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Londonderry, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon and Wilton.

U. S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Item	1985	1984	1983	1982
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers				
Current month - August	319.6			
Percent change from year ago	3.0			
Year average		307.6	297.4	288.6
Percent increase each year		3.4	3.0	6.0
All Urban Consumers				
Current month - August	323.5			
Percent change from year ago	3.4			
Year average		311.1	298.4	289.1
Percent increase each year		4.3	3.2	6.1

STATES ARRAYED BY TAX RATE BASED ON TOTAL WAGES

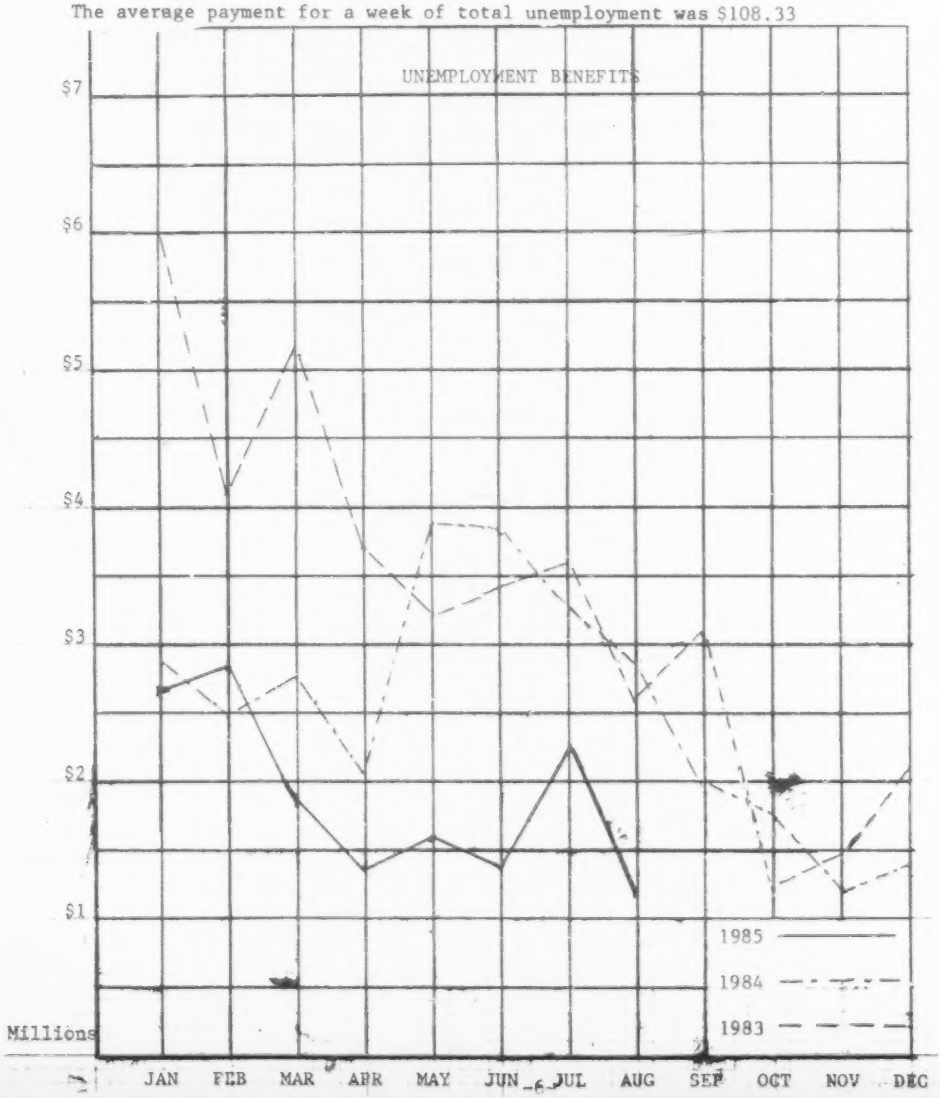
STATE NAMES	TAX RATE $7,000 EXCEPT AS SHOWN	Estimated 1985 AVERAGE TAX RATE TAXABLE	TOTAL	5-31-85 LOANS OUTSTANDING (MILLIONS)
Puerto Rico		5.4	3.1	$27.3
Virgin Islands	$14,000	3.9	3.1	$3.7
Wisconsin	$9,500	4.6	2.5	$388.8
Michigan	$9,000	5.9	2.3	$1,320.7
Rhode Island	$10,600	4.1	2.3	
Pennsylvania	$8,000	5.3	2.2	$1,475.1
Vermont	$8,000	4.4	2.1	$13.6
Idaho	$15,000	3.0	2.0	
Montana	$8,600	3.3	2.0	$17.4
Washington	$10,000	4.1	2.0	
West Virginia	$8,000	4.6	2.0	$303.0
North Dakota	$10,700	3.4	1.9	$9.3
Oregon	$13,000	3.1	1.9	
Illinois	$8,500	4.4	1.8	$1,206.7
Iowa	$11,200	3.4	1.8	
Wyoming	$9,500	3.7	1.8	
Kentucky	$8,000	3.6	1.7	
Louisiana		4.1	1.7	$471.5
Utah	$12,100	2.5	1.6	
Maine		3.2	1.5	
New Jersey	$10,100	3.4	1.5	$232.5
Alaska	$21,800	2.2	1.4	
Arkansas	$7,500	2.7	1.4	
Mississippi		3.0	1.4	
North Carolina	$8,700	2.7	1.4	
Ohio	$8,000	4.2	1.4	$1,052.7
Alabama	$8,000	2.5	1.3	
Kansas	$8,000	2.7	1.3	
Nevada	$11,100	2.3	1.3	
UNITED STATES		3.1	1.3	$6,867.9
California		3.2	1.2	
Colorado	$8,000	2.8	1.2	
Delaware	$8,000	3.5	1.2	
Minnesota	$10,300	2.6	1.2	$128.9
Hawaii	$15,100	1.6	1.1	
New York		3.3	1.1	
Connecticut	$7,100	2.7	1.0	$147.5
Dist. of Columbia	$8,000	3.0	1.0	$13.3
Indiana		2.5	1.0	
Maryland		3.3	1.0	
Oklahoma		2.3	1.0	
South Carolina		2.1	1.0	
Tennessee		2.4	1.0	
Massachusetts		2.1	0.9	
Missouri	$8,000	2.5	0.9	
Nebraska		1.9	0.9	
Georgia		1.7	0.8	
South Dakota		1.4	0.7	
Virginia		1.8	0.7	
ARIZONA		1.8	0.6	
Florida		1.3	0.6	
New Hampshire		1.4	0.6	
Texas		1.5	0.6	$55.9

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor/ETA/UIS, Office of Legislation and Actuarial Services; June, 1985.

Weekly Claims Filed During August 1985
Classified by Local Office

Area	Unemployment Compensation		U.C. State Workers (Only)		UC Local Government		Servicemen UCX (Only)		U.C. Federal Employees No UI	
	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.
All Offices	3,413	13,543	7	31	8	21	22	72	17	53
Berlin	178	803	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1
Claremont	116	418	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Concord	287	800	2	5	0	0	3	5	0	0
Conway	77	322	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Dover	551	2,277	1	3	1	2	5	10	2	10
Keene	131	1,094	0	13	0	10	2	0	0	0
Laconia	165	634	0	8	2	3	0	3	1	3
Lebanon	37	248	0	0	0	2	0	7	1	2
Littleton	82	392	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
Manchester	397	1,757	1	0	1	0	3	18	7	24
Nashua	390	1,602	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4
Portsmouth	706	1,572	1	0	1	1	7	20	4	4
Salem	125	647	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0
Liable Interstate	171	977	1	2	1	1	0	0	2	5

The average payment for a week of total unemployment was $108.33



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance End of Month

$113,815,739.80

Net contributions received during month:

$ 3,158,030.99

Net benefits paid during month:

$ 1,181,303.79

Interest Received:

$ 2,724,823.55

AVERAGE EARNINGS AND HOURS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

New Hampshire

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	August 1985	July 1985	August 1984	Aug. 1985	July 1985	Aug. 1984	Aug. 1985	July 1985	Aug. 1984
All manufacturing	$340.57	$338.89	$320.69	40.4	40.2	40.8	$8.43	$8.43	$7.86
Durable goods	356.06	350.21	332.10	40.6	40.3	41.0	8.77	8.69	8.10
Lumber & wood prods.	258.06	234.95	262.26	39.1	37.0	41.3	6.60	6.35	6.35
Furniture & fixtures	278.86	279.59	263.15	38.2	38.3	37.7	7.30	7.30	6.98
Stone & clay prods.	344.29	317.90	311.67	42.4	40.6	41.5	8.12	7.83	7.51
Primary metal prods.	384.29	375.42	351.92	41.5	41.3	42.4	9.26	9.09	8.30
Fab. metal prods.	312.96	295.22	301.38	38.4	37.8	40.4	8.15	7.81	7.46
Mach. (exc. elec.)	389.37	288.94	376.26	43.7	43.8	43.1	8.91	8.88	8.73
Electrical prods.	377.28	371.88	333.52	39.3	38.9	39.8	9.60	9.56	8.38
Miscellaneous prods.	249.62	248.07	247.46	38.7	38.7	41.8	6.45	6.41	5.92
Other durables	367.93	367.77	341.65	40.7	41.0	40.1	9.04	8.97	8.52
Nondurable goods	309.62	317.59	298.62	39.9	40.1	40.3	7.76	7.92	7.41
Food & kindred prods.	385.12	408.79	407.53	41.5	42.1	42.1	9.28	9.71	9.68
Textile mill prods.	267.34	268.38	269.17	39.2	37.8	39.7	6.82	7.10	6.78
Apparel	218.04	210.66	209.25	37.4	36.7	37.3	5.83	5.74	5.61
Paper & allied prods.	432.43	439.89	437.81	46.2	46.5	47.9	9.36	9.46	9.14
Print., pub. & allied	328.16	322.74	289.20	39.3	39.6	39.4	8.35	8.15	7.34
Leather & lea. prods.	200.57	204.61	192.60	36.6	36.8	35.8	5.48	5.56	5.38
Footwear	187.88	188.86	183.89	36.2	36.6	35.5	5.19	5.16	5.18
Other nondurables	336.04	345.06	323.46	40.1	40.5	41.1	8.38	8.52	7.87

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 57%

Total Production Workers: 83,000

Firms Reporting: 370

Manchester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	August 1985	July 1985	August 1984	Aug. 1985	July 1985	Aug. 1984	Aug. 1985	July 1985	Aug. 1984
All manufacturing	$327.20	$327.06	$300.53	40.0	39.5	39.7	$8.18	$8.28	$7.57
Durable goods	359.24	363.91	323.61	40.5	40.3	40.1	8.87	9.03	8.07
Mach. & elec. prods.	356.40	362.87	326.03	40.0	39.4	40.5	8.91	9.21	8.05
Other durables	364.27	366.50	319.56	41.3	41.6	39.5	8.82	8.81	8.09
Nondurable goods	284.20	279.17	270.96	39.2	38.4	39.1	7.25	7.27	6.93
Textiles & apparel	266.37	245.63	261.50	39.0	37.5	38.4	6.83	6.55	6.81
Other nondurables	291.61	292.16	275.01	39.3	38.8	39.4	7.42	7.53	6.98

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 49%

Total Production Workers: 11,450

Firms Reporting: 38

Nashua PMSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	August 1985	July 1985	August 1984	Aug. 1985	July 1985	Aug. 1984	Aug. 1985	July 1985	Aug. 1984
All manufacturing	$407.42	$401.76	$381.82	40.1	39.7	41.1	$10.16	$10.12	9.29
Durable goods	415.74	407.23	385.85	40.6	40.2	41.4	10.24	10.13	9.32
Mach. & elec. prods.	445.32	435.11	409.44	40.3	39.7	40.7	11.05	10.96	10.06
Other durables	336.15	332.83	321.53	41.5	45.1	43.1	8.10	8.02	7.46
Nondurable goods	366.60	379.01	363.37	37.6	37.6	39.8	9.75	10.08	9.13

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 69%

Total Production Workers: 20,450

Firms Reporting: 76

Number of Active Applicants and Female Applicants by Major Occupational Category

Period Ending August 1985

	NEW HAMPSHIRE		MANCHESTER		NASHUA	
	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female
TOTAL	11,205	5,173	1,853	913	1,230	580
Prof., Tech., Managerial (00,19)	1,634	586	239	75	269	90
Clerical (20-24)	2,050	1,685	326	263	194	149
Sales (25-29)	683	339	215	121	43	23
Services (3)	1,793	1,032	294	166	126	72
Farm (4)	151	35	13	3	17	3
Processing (5)	214	78	32	13	33	9
Machine Trade (6)	1,013	302	141	52	90	18
Benchwork (7)	1,208	828	244	160	246	175
Structural (8)	1,176	49	161	13	90	5
Miscellaneous (9)	1,074	228	186	45	109	33
Unclassified	29	11	2	2	13	3

Employment Service Activity

ITEM	August 1985	July 1985	July 1, 1985 to August 31, 1985
Total new applicants for employment	2,627	2,933	5,560
Total nonagricultural job openings received	3,280	2,538	5,818
Job openings unfilled end of month	3,057	2,543	xxx
Placements - nonagricultural & agricultural	1,287	1,244	2,531